(b) and (c) Foreign Trade Policy outlines a roadmap and strategy for the development of India foreign trade. Copies of this document are available at the Parliament Library. It can also be accessed at the website http://dgft,dethi/nic.in/

Centres opened by IIFT to train people for SMEs

2284. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Institute for Foreign Trade has opened Centres to train executives for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in specific sectors;

(b) details of this new programme;

(c) whether it is a fact that the IIFT has not been able to meet the demand of the export economy for trained people in foreign trade systems, etc.;

(d) what steps will the IIFT take to broadbase its educational programmes all over the country; and

(e) steps proposed to make available education and training at IIFT to people all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) IIFT has established Centre for Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to train exports in specific sectors like textiles, food processing with a view to increasing their export potentials.

(c) to (e) To meet increasing demand for trained personnel in international business, at present, the IIFT produces every year around 360 persons qualified in international business. IIFT has taken following steps to augment its facilities ;—

(i) An on-line Executive Masters in International Business course has been started. Classes are conducted at 28 centres in the country. The

course is designed to train working executives in international business management;

(ii) A regional centre of 11 FT is being set-up at Kolkata where a two-year full time MBA(IB) course is proposed to be launched in 2006. Other courses will also follow;

(iii) IIFT is also offering a number of short-term courses to meet specific demands;

(iv) MFT also plans to start on-line Management Development Programmes to cover a large spectrum of people interested in international business management;

(v) The training centre has been established to cater to the needs of SMEs.

Loss to Indian exports due to Katrina

2285. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian export has suffered due to Hurricane Katrina in US when shipping companies refused to accept shipment to many US ports affected by Katrina; and

(b) the total estimate of loss suffered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No incidents of shipping companies refusing to accept shipments to a US port affected by Hurricane Katrina have come to notice.

(b) Does not arise.

Steps to convert low yielding tea areas to high yielding ones

2286. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether two lakh hectares have been identified as low yielding areas for tea production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and